IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of encapsulating Ethernet frames onto a Very high speed Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) facility, said method comprising:

receiving Ethernet frames from an Ethernet source;

storing said Ethernet frames for subsequent forwarding;

encapsulating said previously stored Ethernet frames within a plurality of ~~VDSL~~ frames, wherein each Ethernet frame is encapsulated entirely within a respective ~~VDSL~~ frame of the plurality of frames; and

transmitting said ~~VDSL~~ plurality of frames over said VDSL facility.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein said Ethernet source comprises a 10BaseT Ethernet source.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of extracting Ethernet frames from a Very high speed Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) facility, said method comprising:

receiving ~~VDSL~~ frames from said VDSL facility, wherein a given Ethernet frame is encapsulated entirely within a ~~VDSL~~ received frame;

extracting Ethernet frames from the ~~VDSL~~ received frames ~~received~~;

storing said Ethernet frames for subsequent forwarding; and

forwarding said Ethernet frames to an Ethernet source.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said Ethernet source comprises a 10BaseT Ethernet source.

12-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the Ethernet source comprises a 100BaseT Ethernet source.

31. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the encapsulating comprises inserting a length field prior to the Ethernet frame.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 31 wherein the encapsulating further comprises inserting a preamble prior to the length field.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 32 wherein the preamble comprises a Barker code.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein the Ethernet source comprises a 100BaseT Ethernet source.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein the encapsulating comprises inserting a length field prior to the Ethernet frame.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 35 wherein the encapsulating further comprises inserting a preamble prior to the length field.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 36 wherein the preamble comprises a Barker code.

38. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an Ethernet frame from an Ethernet source;

encapsulating the Ethernet frame within a ~~very high speed digital subscriber line (VDSL)~~ first frame; and

transmitting the ~~VDSL~~ first frame over a very high speed digital subscriber line (VDSL) ~~VDSL~~ facility.

39. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 38 further comprising:

receiving a second ~~VDSL~~ frame over the VDSL facility;

extracting a second Ethernet frame from the second VDSL frame; and

transmitting the second Ethernet frame to the Ethernet source.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the Ethernet source comprises a 100BaseT Ethernet source.

41. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the Ethernet source comprises a 10BaseT Ethernet source.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the encapsulating comprises inserting a length field prior to the Ethernet frame.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 42 wherein the encapsulating further comprises inserting a preamble prior to the length field.

44. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 43 wherein the preamble comprises a plurality of bytes exhibiting high autocorrelation properties.

45. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 43 wherein the preamble comprises a Barker code.

46. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 43 wherein the ~~VDSL~~ first frame excludes an Ethernet preamble that preceded the Ethernet frame on an Ethernet medium.

47. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 46 where the ~~VDSL~~ first frame further excludes an Ethernet start of frame symbol that preceded the Ethernet frame on an Ethernet medium.

48. (Currently Amended) A method comprising encapsulating an Ethernet frame within a first frame to be transmitted over a very high speed digital subscriber line (VDSL) ~~frame~~ facility.

49. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 48 further comprising transmitting the ~~VDSL~~ first frame over ~~a VDSL~~ the VDSL facility.

50. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 48 further comprising receiving the Ethernet frame from an Ethernet source.

51. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 48 further comprising extracting another Ethernet frame from another ~~VDSL~~ frame.

52. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 48 further comprising encapsulating a plurality of Ethernet frames in respective ~~VDSL~~ frames, wherein the plurality of Ethernet frames are variable length.

53. (Currently Amended) A method comprising extracting an Ethernet frame from a first frame received over a very high speed digital subscriber line (VDSL) ~~frame~~ facility.

~~55~~ 54. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising transmitting the Ethernet frame on an Ethernet facility.

55. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising receiving the ~~VDSL~~ first frame from ~~a VDSL~~ the VDSL facility.

56. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising receiving a plurality of Ethernet frames, wherein the plurality of Ethernet frames are variable length.